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related to the echinostomes, but the lateral lobes of the head, which are supplied with spines, have been transformed into a retractile proboscis.

An Atlantic "Palolo" is described by Mayer (*Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, Vol. XXXVI, pp. 1-14, 3 pls.). The form, which is shown to be distinct from the Pacific species of similar name and habits, is named *Staurocephalus gregaricus*. It appeared in a dense swarm before sunrise on a single morning and discharged its sexual products with the coming of the sun under contractions so violent that the ripe segments were torn open. The author gives an interesting discussion of the advantages of this habit in shortening the egg-laying season, concentrating the breeding individuals and not only insuring more perfect fertilization, but also reducing the distance which the sperm must traverse in order to fertilize the ova; while the increased struggle for food due to the production of a large number of young larvæ is counterbalanced by the heavily yolk-laden egg of this species.

The Alciopidæ and Tomopteridæ of the Plankton Expedition by Apstein (*Ergebnisse der Plankton-Expedition der Humboldt-Stiftung*, Bd. II, H. b., 61 pp., 14 pls.) opens with an extended taxonomic account of the alciopids captured. The geographical distribution of these forms has been much extended, as appears from the tables given, which also show that the group belongs to warmer waters, with the exception of strays found in the northern branches of the Gulf Stream and of a single Antarctic species. Within the warm zones they appear to be generally distributed without special areas and are present everywhere in approximately equal numbers, as shown by the hauls of the vertical net. Among the tomopterids, however, a single species seems to occur only in the vicinity of land, though with an extended range, while the others are all true pelagic forms. The genus contains species found in cold waters, — those characteristic of warm regions and such as inhabit both. While moderately equally distributed, these forms do not manifest the uniformity noted for the alciopids.

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#### BOTANY.

**Some Recent Forestry Publications.** — The interest in the preservation of the timber covering which still characterizes certain parts of the earth, and its renewal in denuded areas, which appears to be

spreading gradually in this country and which has long been recognized as economically important in many other parts of the world, is leading to the rapid appearance of handbooks and other publications, of varying degrees of excellence but all of utility. Notice has been made elsewhere of Mr. Gannett's magnificent treatise on our own forests,<sup>1</sup> which stands in a class quite by itself as a work of rare statistical and other practical value, and of the botanico-forestal books of Professor Sargent<sup>2</sup> and Miss Keeler.<sup>3</sup> The mail now brings an official handbook of Indian forestry, by R. Ribbentrop,<sup>4</sup> and a book by Abbot Kinney,<sup>5</sup> intended to awaken and spread popular interest in this subject on our Pacific coast.

Mr. Ribbentrop, who is Inspector-General of forests to the government of India, traces the history of forestry development in a British colony where, whatever else may be said, the home government has made continuous and intelligent effort to develop and conserve the rich endowment of nature; and the influence of this policy on the native governments is shown to be most encouraging.

Mr. Kinney, who has had ample opportunity to observe the reckless waste of timber in one of the grandest existing forests, analyzes the relations of forest preservation to the elements and the greed or carelessness of man, and presents an outline for a forest system for southern California. A number of specialists contribute chapters to his book on irrigation and the peculiar conditions appertaining to sand dunes.

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**Coulter and Rose's Umbelliferæ.** — A revision of the Umbelliferæ of our flora, by Drs. Coulter and Rose,<sup>6</sup> constitutes the opening number of Vol. VII of the *Contributions from the United States National Herbarium*. Three hundred and seventy-one species, pertaining to seventy-eight genera, are included, with necessary

<sup>1</sup> Gannett, H. *Forest Reserves*, *Ann. Rept. U. S. Geol. Surv.*, Washington, 1900, vol. xx, pt. v. xviii + 498 pp., with numerous maps, charts, and process illustrations from photographs.

<sup>2</sup> Sargent, C. S. *The Silva of North America*. Boston and New York, 1890-1900. Twelve quarto volumes, with many plates, and to be completed in one or two additional volumes now in preparation.

<sup>3</sup> Keeler, H. L. *Our Native Trees and how to Identify Them*. New York, 1900.

<sup>4</sup> Ribbentrop, B. *Forestry in British India*. With a rainfall chart and three maps. ii + 245 pp. Calcutta, 1900.

<sup>5</sup> Kinney, A. *Forest and Water*. v + 247 pp., with numerous diagrams and half-tone plates. Los Angeles, 1900.

<sup>6</sup> Coulter, J. M., and Rose, J. N. *Monograph of the North-American Umbelliferæ*. vii + 256 pp., Pl. IX, ff. 65. Washington, 1900.